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December 28, 2004

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Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
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Mail Stop: Amendment

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application
Application No. 09/641,394; Filed: August 18, 2000
For: **A Method, System and Computer Program Product for Valuating
Natural Gas Contracts Using Weather-Based Metrics**
Inventors: MACHADO, Jr *et al.*
Our Ref: 1481.0240000/MQL/TAD

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111;
2. A copy of Forms 1449 (13 pages) as originally filed on September 23, 2003; and
3. Return postcard.

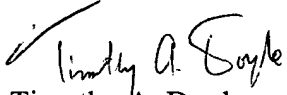
It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing of these documents, and that it be returned to our courier. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this patent application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned.

Commissioner for Patents
December 28, 2004
Page 2

The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency, or credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 19-0036.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.


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TAD/slw
Enclosures

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